

The Angelus

St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order
June 7, 2025



Minister: Michael Oliver
Vice-Minister: John DiBenedetto
Formation Director: Carmencita Fiesta
Secretary: Susan Jamison
Treasurer: Portia Fiesta
Counselors: Tom McGrath, Michaelle Sylla and Aurea Roland
Spiritual Assistant: Michael Huether

June 7th Gathering Agenda

Fraternity Retreat at the Shrine of St. Anthony on Saturday, June 7th!

**Note that this event takes the place of our regular third Sunday gathering*

Agenda:

9:45 am – gather at the Shrine in the front courtyard

10:00 am – the tour led by fellow OFS member, Ray Glennon, commences

11:00 am – the tour ends, and we head to the chapel for confessions and adoration

Noon – Mass

1:00 pm – head to the White Oak Tavern for lunch, where Susan kindly made a group reservation. The wait staff will give us individual checks, and the fraternity will cover the gratuity.

*****Remember, this is a wonderful opportunity to gain a plenary indulgence!**

Minister's Message

In advance of our retreat and tour of the Shrine of St. Anthony, I thought it appropriate to provide a brief review of some of its' history.

The Shrine of St. Anthony has been home to the Conventual Franciscan Friars for over 70 years. The Shrine has been home to many friars and served as a student residence, a house of philosophy, and a novitiate. Since 1991, the Shrine has also been home to the Companions of St. Anthony ministries.

Dedicated as a Shrine of the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 2005, the Shrine of St. Anthony offers us an opportunity to experience the Lord in a variety of ways, including the beauty of the Italian Renaissance Shrine and Friary.

While we may not have time to experience all that the Shrine offers outside of our tour, schedule a personal retreat to stroll along one of the seven prayer paths, or enjoy the serenity and solitude of the Grotto of Lourdes. Moreover, the Shrine is privileged to house a major relic of St. Anthony, given to them as a gift from their confreres in Padua, Italy.

On a separate note, be sure to check out this month's birthdays and profession anniversaries.

June is always a popular profession month, and we had **10 members** professed in June as early as 1983 and late as 2023. And, of course, happy birthday wishes to both Marilyn and Susan!

Peace and all good!

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT'S MESSAGE

June, 2025

Greetings to you all!

Continuing with my series on the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition, we will take a look at the beginnings of how this tradition started and its early days in our Church and Franciscan histories. As I stated before, this is all based upon the resource, "Discovering the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition" by John V. Kluse.

Not long after our Father Francis met with Sister Death in 1226, some of his friars began studies at some of the well-known European universities such as at Cambridge, Oxford, and Paris in order to better prepare themselves for their ministries in the Church ("I have done what is mine; now you must do what is yours").

With this, they brought with them a distinctive way of viewing and understanding the Christian Tradition in a manner shaped by their own Franciscan way of life and the living example of St. Francis.

This prompted them to put their own "spin" on the way they understood the Bible and the Tradition (the passed down teachings) of the Church. The followers of St. Dominic were doing the same thing with their founder at this time. The followers of both contemporary saints were referred to as "mendicants" meaning "beggars".

They did not seclude themselves in monasteries, but instead served the needs of cities, initially begging to sustain themselves. Both the Dominicans and Franciscans were both students

and holders of teaching posts at these universities.

Together, both these Dominican and Franciscan scholars contributed greatly to a systematic way of approaching, explaining, and understanding the Christian faith that we refer to as Scholasticism, which was prevalent at their time.

There were three main characteristics of Scholasticism. First, it was very deeply rooted in the philosophy of Aristotle (384-322 BC). Prior to this, the Church's theology had usually been explained based on the philosophy of Plato (428/7-348/7 BC).

When both Dominican and Franciscan theologies took the lead at the European universities, Latin translations of Aristotle and Islamic commentaries on his thought became available to Western scholars by way of Islamic scholars.

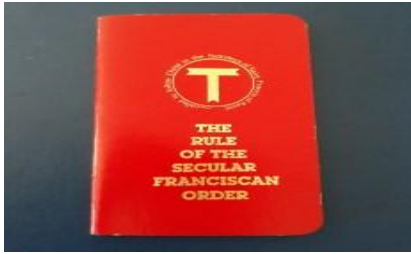
Since Aristotelian philosophy explains and categorizes all that possibly was, including that which was not physical but which could be conceived in mind, it was helpful to theologians who used Aristotelian concepts in explaining the Christian faith.

A second characteristic of Scholasticism was in its use of the "Sentences" of Peter Lombard. These were a systematic collection of the main teachings of the Church that provided a convenient basis for scholars to explore theological concepts.

Next month, we'll talk of the third characteristic of Scholasticism, and how both the Franciscan and Dominican traditions used this method to express themselves. Mike

Peace!

Mike



Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

CHAPTER TWO: THE WAY OF LIFE

Article 17. In their family they should cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity, and respect for life, striving to make of it a sign of a world already renewed in Christ.

By living the grace of matrimony, husbands and wives, in particular, should bear witness in the world to the love of Christ for His Church. They should joyfully accompany their children on their human and spiritual journey by providing a simple and open Christian education and being attentive to the vocation of each child.

Thoughts to ponder

For many of us, the term “family” implies a focus on spouses, children, grandchildren and our Franciscan family. For others, perhaps it is our personal and Franciscan families, as well as friends and neighbors.

Regardless of how you define it, we must continually reflect on how well we are bearing witness in the world to the love of Christ.

Are we consistent in accompanying family on their human and spiritual journey?

For children and/or grandchildren, are we assisting with their Christian education and vocations?



Happy Birthday and Profession anniversary!

June birthdays

Susan Jamison – June 24th
Marilyn Taylor – June 7th

June Professions

Jaime Bernardo – June 16, 1985
Sonia Bernardo – June 16, 1985
John Di Benedetto – June 19, 2021
Genie Dutton – June 19, 1983
Michael Oliver – June 19, 2021
Ingrid Roberts – June 3, 2023
Aurea Roland – June 3, 2023
Dick Schaefer – June 17, 1985
Delia Sylla – June 3, 2023
Michaëlle Sylla – June 19, 2021



A friendly Secular Franciscan reminder!

If health or a special family obligation hinders you from attending our gathering, please contact our Vice Minister, John Di Benedetto, and let him know.

301-873-7883

Reminder

Our monthly Mass for our Living and Deceased Fraternity Members will be celebrated on June 15th, at Our Lady of Grace Church at 11 AM.

Apostolates Corner

Prayer Ministry



Lead:

Bette O'Connor

410-499-5504 oconnorbette46@gmail.com

Bette can be contacted by phone, text or email.

If desired, your prayer requests will be shared with the entire Fraternity. We will be happy to feature prayer requests in the Angelus.

In addition, your prayer needs can be shared in the daily Zoom prayer gathering at 3 p.m. Finally, feel free to submit names to the group each month for prayer support.